

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, 17, 21, 26, 27, 29–31, 38, 44, and 48–57 are amended. Some of these amendments recite features presented in the original claims. It will also be understood that some of the amendments merely provide consistency between independent and corresponding dependent claims or remove unnecessary limitations. Claims 1–57 are currently pending in the application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 6–9, 12, and 15–20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stern et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,941,156). For at least the following reasons, applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 recites comparing a write pointer and a read pointer, and changing a frequency of a reading to a different one of a predetermined plurality based on the comparing.

Claim 12 recites a frequency controller configured to determine a relation between a value of a write pointer and a value of a read pointer and to change a reading frequency to a different one of a predetermined plurality based on the determined relation.

Applicant respectfully notes that Stern fails to teach comparing read and write pointers. While Figures 1 and 7 of Stern show write and read pointers, they do not teach or suggest any comparison of these pointers. Indeed, Figure 7 shows that only a difference between the write and read clock counters is used. See also col. 2, ll. 32–34: “An adder is provided for receiving the outputs of the Write counter and Read counter and outputting the difference thereof”; col. 2, ll. 54–56 (describing Fig. 5); col. 5, ll. 36–41 (discussing difference between Write clock counter and Read clock counter); and claim 1 (reciting “difference means for determining the phase difference between said Write clock and said Read clock”).

Although Stern states that “[c]ircuitry is provided for determining the difference between the Read and Write pointers” (col. 2, ll. 4–6), the reference actually teaches determining a difference between clock counters as noted above, and not any comparison of a write pointer and a read pointer. See MPEP § 2141.02, pt. 6 (“PRIOR ART MUST BE CONSIDERED IN ITS ENTIRETY, INCLUDING DISCLOSURES THAT TEACH AWAY FROM THE

CLAIMS”). Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that Stern fails to teach or disclose the invention as recited in applicant’s claims.

Moreover, applicant also respectfully notes that Stern fails to disclose reading data from a buffer at a selected frequency, or changing a reading frequency to a different one of a predetermined plurality of frequencies, as recited in claims 1 and 12. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 12 and their dependent claims be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2–5, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 21–57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Stern in view of Felts et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,581,164). For at least the following reasons, applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 21 recites comparing information related to a write pointer and information related to a read pointer, detecting a condition responsive to the comparing, and changing a display frequency to a different one of a predetermined plurality of display frequencies responsive to the detecting.

Claim 31 recites a frequency controller configured to determine a relation between a value of a write pointer and a value of a read pointer and to change a reading frequency to a different one of a predetermined plurality based on the determined relation.

Claim 38 recites comparing a write pointer and a read pointer, and changing a display frequency to a different one of a predetermined plurality based on the comparing.

Claim 44 recites selecting a frequency of a display signal from a predetermined plurality of display frequencies based on an amount of video data not yet read from a buffer.

As noted above, Stern fails to disclose changing a reading frequency or display frequency to a different one of a predetermined plurality of frequencies, based on values of write and read pointers or on an amount of video data not yet read. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 21, 31, 38, and 44 and their dependent claims and of claims 2–5, 10, 11, 13, and 14 be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully notes that Felts also fails to teach or disclose elements of applicant’s claims such as a predetermined plurality of reading or display frequencies. Additionally, applicant respectfully notes that in Felts’ discussion of “a scaled approach to video

decoding” (col. 13, ll. 7–46), there is no mention of any display device at all, and only the instability of a VCR video source is discussed.

Likewise, the mention of a video display device in column 5 (line 63) relates to comb filtering, which is discussed in more detail at columns 13–14. Felts states that “[e]mbodiments of the present invention ... adjust the video encoder’s PLL in very small increments very slowly over time so that an MLS [mathematically linked subcarrier] can be produced which will optimize the performance of comb filters in display devices” (col. 14, ll. 23–29). Applicant respectfully notes that Felts does not disclose selecting or changing to one of plurality of supported display frequencies or supported refresh rates, for example, or “a scaler operative to modify the data frames in accordance with capabilities of the video display device” as recited in applicant’s claims 13 and 32.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and earnestly requests a notice to that effect. If any points remain in issue that may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant’s representative at the telephone number below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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